

Confirmation of Sonship (vv. 14-17)

VERSE 14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God

(ὅσοι γὰρ πνεύματι θεοῦ ἄγονται, οὗτοι υἱοὶ θεοῦ εἰσιν [*pron.nom.m.p. hosos whoever + conj. gar + noun instr.nt.s. pneuma + noun gen.m.s. theos + pres.act.ind.3p. ago lead + pro.nom.m.p. houtos "these" + noun nom.m.p. huios son + noun gen.m.s. theos + pres.act.ind.3p. eimi*]).

VERSE 15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again (οὐ

γὰρ ἐλάβετε πνεῦμα δουλείας πάλιν εἰς φόβον [*neg. ou + conj. gar + aor.act.ind.2p. lambano receive + noun acc.nt.s. pneuma + noun gen.f.s. douleia bondage + adv. palin again + prep eis + noun acc.m.s. phobos fear*], **but you have received a Spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father** [ἀλλὰ ἐλάβετε πνεῦμα υἰοθεσίας ἐν ᾧ κράζομεν, Ἀββα ὁ πατήρ [*conj. alla + aor.act.ind.2p. lambano + noun acc.nt.s. pneuma + noun gen.f.s. huiothesia adoption + prep en + pro.instr.sing. hos "by which" + pres.act.ind.1p. krazo cry + noun voc.m.s. Abba + noun voc.m.s. pater*)]!"

VERSE 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God

(αὐτὸ τὸ πνεῦμα συμμαρτυρεῖ τῷ πνεύματι ἡμῶν ὅτι ἐσμέν τέκνα θεοῦ [*pro.nom.s. autos "Himself" + d.a.w/noun acc.nts. pneuma + pres.act.ind.3s. summartureo bear witness to something + d.a.w/noun dat.nt.s. pneuma + pro.gen.p. ego + conj. hoti that + pres.act.ind.1p. eimi + noun nom.nt.p. teknon child + noun gen.m.s. theos*]),

VERSE 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ [εἰ

δὲ τέκνα, καὶ κληρονόμοι· κληρονόμοι μὲν θεοῦ, συγκληρονόμοι δὲ Χριστοῦ, [*part. ei if + conj. de + noun nom.nt.p. teknon + conj. kai + noun nom.m.p. kleronomis heir + noun nom.m.p. kleronomos + part. me + noun gen.m.s. theos + adj.nom.m.p. sugkleronomos joint-heirs + conj. de + noun gen.m.s. Christ*], **if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be**

glorified with Him [*conj. eiper* “if indeed” + *pres.act.ind.Ip. sumpasko suffer with* + *conj. hina* + *conj. kai also* + *aor.pass.subj.Ip. sundoxazomai share in another’s glory; only here*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSES 14-17

1. Being led by the Spirit of God is proof positive that the person is a son of God.
2. Unbelievers do not have the HS and are confined to the rulership of the sin nature.
3. All believers in Christ have been led by the HS at least once.
4. Those who exercise saving faith are led by the Spirit as per the convicting ministry of the HS (Jn. 16:8-11).
5. We have been given the HS to lead us into all truth (Jn. 16:11 “But when He, the Spirit of truth comes. He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak, and will disclose to you what is to come.”).
6. The things necessary to be led of the Spirit: (a) positive volition; (b) doctrine in the human spirit; (c) isolation of the sin nature.
7. An example of being led by the HS validating our status as sons of God is overcoming fear (v. 15).
8. Fear is a sin and God the Holy Spirit does not lead us into bondage to this manifestation of the sin nature (cf. 2 Tim. 1:7).
9. The adverb “again” refers to the time before our salvation.
10. To live under fear is a form of enslavement.
11. What is the universal fear that unbelievers live under?
12. Fear of death according to Heb. 2:15 (“and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.”).
13. Furthermore, we are not to fear those things which are common to man (Matt. 10:26, 28; Lk. 12:4-7; 1 Pet. 3:14; Rev. 2:10).
14. Inner peace is the alternative to fear (Jn. 14:27 “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”).
15. There is a sanctified fear (Eccl. 8:12; 12:13; Rev. 14:7; Phil. 2:12; Jude 1:23).
16. Believers, on the other hand, “have received a Spirit of adoption” constituting them as “sons.”
17. Adoption (υἰοθεσίας) views us as sons of God, which is a status conferred on us at salvation.
18. Before salvation we were not children of God, but rather our father was the devil (Jn. 8:44).
19. We are fully God’s sons through the new birth.
20. And God the Holy Spirit conferred on us this status, which should comfort us in times of difficulty.
21. And this is the thrust of the phrase “but you have received a Spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out “Abba, Father!”
22. In those situations that seem dire, we should “cry out” as a child would to his human parent, and we have assurance that our heavenly Father will come to our aid (cf. Heb. 4:16 “Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”; Matt. 6:25-34).
23. “Abba” is an Aramaic loan-word and has the same nuance as ‘daddy’ or ‘pappa.’
24. “Father” is the more reserved term of address.
25. “By which” refers to Spirit’s prompting.

26. Perfect love casts out fear (1 Jn. 4:18; cp. Ps. 56:3 “When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You.”).
27. Furthermore, God the HS “testifies” (bears witness) with our human spirit providing confirmation that we are “children of God.”
28. This is especially a reality when we are confident of our so great salvation.
29. And when we are manifest love for fellow believers (cf. 1 Jn. 3:14, 18).
30. Also there is answered prayer and the keeping of God’s commandments (1 Jn. 3:22).
31. Another aspect of sonship is brought to our attention in v. 17.
32. Sonship implies heirship.
33. Since children naturally inherit from their parents’ estate so we inherit from our spiritual father.
34. First, God’s Son, Jesus Christ is the heir of all things (Heb. 1:12; 2:8; Ps. 2:8; Matt. 28:18).
35. He suffered leaving us an example (Isa. 53:2-12).
36. Verse 17 informs us that God’s “children” are “heirs and joint-heirs with Christ.”
37. For “joint-heirs” see also Eph. 3:6; Heb. 11:9; 1 Pet. 3:7.
38. The eternal inheritance includes ultimate sanctification in a resurrection body in the future kingdom of God on earth along with SG3.
39. But verse 17 goes on to specify the SG3 factor that is reserved for those who are willing to “suffer with *Him*” (verb occurs also at 1 Cor. 12:26).
40. Christ’s elevation to the right hand of God depended on His willingness to suffer in time, including the sufferings related to the cross.
41. The highest reward is reserved for those who are willing to endure their allotment of suffering to the end of Ph 2 (2 Tim. 2:12 “If we endure, we will also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He will also deny us (i.e., reward).”
42. Believers are told to expect sufferings (Acts 14:22 “strengthening the souls of believers, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, ‘Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.’”
43. A promise related to our suffering is found in 2 Cor. 1:5 “For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.” (also verses 6 & 7).
44. Also note the promise of Ps. 34:19 “Many are the afflictions of the righteous. But the LORD delivers him out of them all.”
45. The sufferings of the body of Christ (the Church) are viewed as “filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions” (Col. 1:24).
46. Sufferings in the form of persecution come to those who turn positive and are enlightened (Heb. 10:32 “But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings.”).
47. Our sufferings for standing firm in the faith will be rewarded with future glory (1 Pet. 4:13 “but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.”).
48. God will never put upon you more than you can endure (1 Cor. 10:13 “No temptation/testing has overtaken you but such as is common to man, and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tested beyond what you are able, but with the testing will provide the way of escape, so that you will be able to endure it.”
49. How we are to handle opposition: 1 Pet. 2:20 “For what credit is there if you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer *for it* you patiently endure it, this *finds favor* with God.”
50. This is great SG3 connected to just growing old (2 Cor. 4:16ff.)!